

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-37 are pending in this application.

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 33-37 are rejected as being dependent on rejected claim 32.

Claims 1, 3, 9, 16-30, 25-26, and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Young et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,107,827 (hereinafter "Young").

Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Young, in view of Park et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,359,468 (hereinafter "Park").

Claims 2, 4-8, 10-15, 27-28, and 31 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

II. Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 25 to more particularly define the invention. Applicant has amended independent claim 32 to clarify the claimed subject

matter. No new matter has been introduced and the amendments are fully supported by the specification.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowability of the subject matter of claims 2, 4-8, 10-15, 27-28, and 31. Applicant expressly reserves the right to rewrite these claims in independent form should their base claims ultimately not be allowed.

The Examiner's objection and rejections are respectfully traversed.

III. Applicant's Reply to the § 112 Rejection

Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Applicant has amended claim 32 to more clearly define the claimed subject matter. No new matter has been introduced. Applicant submits that independent claim 32, as amended, is allowable.

Dependent claims 33-37, which are rejected as dependent on claim 32, are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable claim. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 32-37 be withdrawn.

IV. Applicant's Reply to the § 102 Rejection

Claims 1, 3, 9, 16-20, 25-26, and 29-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Young. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's amended independent claims 1 and 25 are directed towards circuitry and methods related to logic modules, the modules including combinational logic circuitry having at least three stages, and XOR circuitry interposed between two of the stages or between the third stage and an output. The XOR circuitry is used to logically combine a carry in signal with at least one combinational logic signal. As amended, each of the three stages of the combinational logic circuitry is responsive to an input of the logic module.

Young refers to a configurable logic element (CLE) which includes function generators, each with a set of data inputs. The CLE also includes multiplexers, XOR gates and other logic elements, and carry chains which incorporate the outputs of some of the function generators. Young discusses programmable (configurable) bits which control the function of some of the multiplexers within the CLE (Column 16, lines 13-15). Such bits are notably shown to control the function of multiplexers MJ and MH, which are mentioned in the Office

Action. These bits are part of the CLE. They are not inputs to the CLE, like input signals J1-J4, H1-H4, BJ and others.

The Office Action contends that the logic modules of independent claims 1 and 25 are anticipated by Young. Applicant respectfully submits that Young does not show the logic modules of amended claims 1 and 25. In particular, Young does not show combinational logic modules having first, second, and third stages, each of the stages being responsive to at least one input of the logic module (as distinct from programmable bits of the logic module), and XOR circuitry being interposed between two of the stages or between a third stage and an output.

For at least this reason, applicant submits that independent claims 1 and 25 are allowable. Dependent claims 3, 9, 16-20, 26, and 29-30, which depend from either of independent claims 1 and 25, are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable claim. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3, 9, 16-20, 25-26, and 29-30 be withdrawn.

V. Applicant's Reply to the § 103 Rejection

Claims 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from Young in view of Park.

Applicant has shown independent claim 1 to be allowable. Claims 21-24, which depend from independent

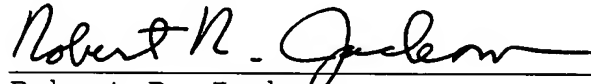
claim 1, are allowable at least because they depend from an allowable claim. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 21-24 be withdrawn.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, claims 1-37 are in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are accordingly respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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